

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



ROSE

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The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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## CHRISTMAS COUNT



### 1973 Christmas Bird Census

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The 1973 Iowa Christmas Bird Census can easily be termed another success. Twenty-six stations conducted the census this year with 290 observers working in 114 parties and recording 111 species and 158,214 individuals -- a lot of work, but definitely enjoyable. Davenport was again the leader in number of species seen with 81. Following close behind were Muscatine (66), Omaha (66), Clinton (61), Princeton (60), Cedar Rapids (54), Oakville (53), and Ames (53).

Due to the new name changes recommended by the AOU the Snow and Blue Goose are listed herein as a single species (Snow Goose) representing two color phases. The Red-shafted Flicker and Yellow-shafted Flicker are listed under Common Flicker, and the Robin is now American Robin. The Oregon and Slate-colored Juncos are listed as the Dark-eyed Junco as well as the two White-winged Juncos found this year.

We had several unusual records this year including a Monk Parakeet seen by the Davenport group, and the two Dark-eyed (White-winged) Juncos found by the Shenandoah party. Unfortunately, the White-winged Junco cannot be counted as a new species since it is now considered as a subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco complex. The Snowy Owl, an unusual find anywhere, was reported from two locations. Those species represented by only one individual this year included the American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Monk Parakeet, Saw-whet Owl, Bewick's Wren, Swainson's Thrush, and Evening Grosbeak. On the other side of the coin those species found by all stations included the Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal and Dark-eyed Junco.

Several fluctuations were readily apparent this year. The Red-shouldered Hawk continued to decline with only one individual reported. Marsh Hawks were down in number as was the Red-headed Woodpecker. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was also low, but since they were prevalent last year, this probably merely represents the usual two-year migration pattern of this species.

Even though some species declined this year others showed a rise in the number reported. These included the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Short-eared Owl, Song Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. Whether this represents a true increase in populations is doubtful, but it makes good food for thought nonetheless.



1. ALLEMAN (15 mile diameter circle centered on Alleman and including Big Creek Lake, Chichaqua Wildlife Refuge, Jester Park, Saylorville Dam north to Jester Park, and areas between these). Dec. 18: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp.: 15-25; wind: none, overcast, no precipitation, snow cover, no open water in sight. Observers (2) in 1 party: Dean Mosman (compiler), and Diane Mosman.

Comments: Tape recorder used to attract the Screech Owl.

2. AMES (15 mile diameter circle centered on junction of Interstate 35 and relocated Highway 30 to include Nevada cemetery, Sopers Mill, State Forest Nursery, and ISU campus, same as previous years). Dec. 16: 4:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 8-16; wind: 0-5 mph from W, clear, 1-4 inches of snow, ponds mostly frozen, streams and rivers open. Observers (32) in 14 parties, plus 11 at feeders: Jerry Abma, Dean Biechler, George Carlson, Don Carr, Lois Carr, Barnett Cook (compiler), Philip Cox, Rich Crawford, Larry Dau, Dick Gunn, Betsy Gunn, Marguerite Holley, Paul Hollander, Joan Jefferson, Robert Jefferson, James Jarvis, Joanne Jarvis, Kevin Klute, Brian Ladd, Steve Maloy, Lotus Miller, Wilmer Miller, Don Mullison, Don Norton, Richard Pruiksma, Pete Roberts, Jeff Ruprecht, Kenneth Russell, L. R. Schneider, Harriett Simmons, Richard Trump and Jim Wilson.

Details of unusual observations: Canada Geese found on farm pond with pinioned birds. Chipping Sparrow at 50 feet, contrasted with Tree Sparrows by eye pattern as well as lack of breast spot.

Other species seen during census period: Bald Eagle and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

3. BENTONSPORT (15 mile diameter circle centered near Bentonsport in Van Buren County and including Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, county roads, railroad tracks, Des Moines River bottoms and bluffs). Dec. 29: 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp.: 18-29; wind: 5-15 mph from NNW, clear to partly cloudy, 5 inches snow on ground, river ice-filled but open. Observers (3) in 1 party: Kathy Fisher (compiler), Oneita Fisher and Mike Zahs.

Details of unusual observations: Snow Bunting was with mixed flock of juncos and sparrows. Bluebirds were in brush along road west of Vernon.

Other species seen during the census period: Bald Eagle and Turkey.

4. BURLINGTON (15 mile diameter circle centered on Highway 99 at Flint Creek bridge including Lock and Dam 18, Carthage Lake, Crystal Lake, city parks, river bottomland). Dec. 22: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Temp.: 20-32; wind: calm, A.M. mostly clear, P.M. near overcast, 4-7 inches snow cover, Mississippi 99 percent ice covered. Observers (10) in 4 parties: Dr. Charles Fuller, Jane Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Leopold, Anna Mae Lowther, John Lowther, Peter Lowther (compiler), Alan Pistorius, Dotty Pistorius, and Irwin Saarman.

Other species seen during census period: Great Blue Heron, Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, and Cedar Waxwing.

Comments: Count center was moved  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles NE of former center.

5. CEDAR FALLS (15 mile diameter circle centered on First and Main Streets including Falls Access, Washington Union Access, and Black Hawk Park). Dec. 28: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 26-34; wind: 12-15 from SE, heavy snowfall in A.M., stopped in P.M., no open water. Observers (4) in 2 parties: Steve Fitkin, L. M. Groothuis, Mrs. Fred Knoll and Morten Konig (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: Bewick's Wren has been coming to feeder all winter (see longer note).

6. CEDAR RAPIDS (15 mile diameter circle centered on Federal Building including Cedar Lake, Marion Springs, Sac-Fox Park, woodlands, orchards, and roadsides, same as previous years). Dec. 22: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 2-25; wind: 8 mph from SSE, clear early morning, overcast remainder of day, light fog at Cedar Lake, 5 inches snow cover, water areas open except ice along edges. Observers (19) in 5 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beam, Dr. Dwayne Carr, Irene Haether, Eldon Johnson, Beryl Layton, John Layton, Lucile Liljedahl, Edie Mellgren, Roberta Oppedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Rosenberg, Lillian Serbousek (compiler), Barbara Shaffer, Dr. Robert Vane, Dr. Peter Wickham, Myra Willis and Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich Zobac.

Details of unusual observations: Broad-winged Hawk seen in good light at about 300 feet perched and tail marking noted in flight.

Other species seen during census period: Hooded Merganser and Golden-Crowned Kinglet.

Comments: Tape recordings used to attract some owls.

7. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle centered on Elk River Junction, same as previous years). Dec. 29: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp.: 15-20; wind: 10-15 mph from NW, clear, ground partly covered by scattered drifts of old snow, river 80 percent ice covered. Observers (11) in 5 parties: Jay Belinger, Mark Henderson, Darrel Jahn, Fred, Johnathan and Maurice Leshner, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Cal Snyder and Charles Warrenburg.

Details of unusual observations: Swainson's Thrush seen well at close range (FL). Comments: Wind made accurate censusing very difficult.

8. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle centered on former toll house location on the Memorial Bridge (I74), same as previous years). Dec. 16: 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 9-19; wind: 3-10 mph from N, clear, ground covered by 6 inches of old, drifted snow, river 50 percent ice covered. Observers (35) in 19 parties: Mrs. Fred Adams, Mrs. Ed Carleton, Jane Carpenter, Charles Craft, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Leo Doering, Tom Doering Jr., Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink, Henry Goldschmidt, Tom Goodwin, James Hodges, Doug Johnson, Pat Lanaghan, Mrs. Don McIver, Beth Mast, Dave Melchert, Robert Motz, Marge Pentland, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen (compiler), Mel Peterson, Russell Reidinger, Mary Rose, April and Ernie Sadler, Myrth Schutte, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Ralph Troll, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Monk Parakeet (see longer note on p. 22).

Other species seen during census period: Hermit Thrush and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Comments: Red-headed Woodpeckers very scarce due to lack of acorns. Albino Starling seen in NE Davenport.

9. DES MOINES (15 mile diameter circle including Denman Woods, Pinehill cemetery, Fisher's Lake, Greenwood and Ashworth Parks, Walnut Woods, Clark's Woods, Easter Lake, Flint Access, Grandview Park, Laurel Hill cemetery, Beaverdale, Ashby, Birdland and Union Parks). Dec. 22: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 12-32; wind: 5-9 mph from SW, clear, 3-5 inches snow cover, water mostly frozen. Observers (17) in 5 parties: Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Wm. Blakely, Wm. Boller (compiler), Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Woodward Brown, Pat Clover, Lyle DeGarmo, Oliver Graves, Mrs. Lester Haskell, Mrs. Adolph Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mooney, Dean Mosman, Mary E. Peck, Steve Stewart, Lambert Trowbridge, and Mary Ellen Warters.

Other species seen during the census period: Screech Owl and Pine Siskin.



10. DUBUQUE (15 mile diameter circle centered on Center Grove cemetery including Linwood, John Deere, Durango, Industrial Island, Dubuque's Grave, Massey, and Sinnipee Creek). Dec. 18: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 19-21; wind: 5-8 mph from E, heavy overcast, 4 inches old snow, river partly open. Observers (7) in 4 parties: Frieda and George Crossley (compiler), Patricia Heidenreich, Harry Herold, William Herrmann, Delbert Ludwig, and Charlotte McInerney.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe seen in spring-fed stream. Geese were migrating.

Other species seen during the census period: Pileated Woodpecker and Mockingbird.

11. IOWA CITY (15 mile diameter circle centered near North Liberty including Iowa City, Lake Macbride, Coralville Reservoir, and west). Dec. 22: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 10-28; wind: light from SE, fair with some overcast in PM, 6 inches snow cover, lakes and ponds frozen, river open below dam. Observers (9) in 4 parties: Nick Halmi, M. L. Huitt, Bob Hulbary, Bill Kent, Fred Kent (compiler), Tom Kent, Darrell Peterson, Tom Shires, and Jim Taylor.

Other species seen during census period: Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

12. LAMONI (15 mile diameter circle centered on the intersection of I-35 and U. S. 69 2½ miles east of Lamoni including county roads, farmland, and Nine Eagles Park). Dec. 27: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 26-30; wind: 10 mph from SW, cloudy AM, clear PM, ground with light, partial snow cover, ponds frozen, streams partially frozen. Observers (9) in 3 parties: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Wallace DeLong, Bill, David, Jim, and J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Lee Searles, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

Other species seen during census period: Horned Lark, Brewer's Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Comments: Buteo hawks unusually abundant, shrikes unusually scarce. No Horned Larks were seen on count day, but were seen both before and after.

13. LUVERNE (15 mile diameter circle centered on junction of Highway 408 and Humboldt County K including towns of LuVerne and Livermore). Dec. 28: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 18-25; wind: 5-10 mph from SE, snowing in early AM, heavy snow cover, some open water. Observers (3) in 1 party: Jeff Hansen, Dennis Holmes (compiler), and Jeff Krause.

Other species seen during census period: Great Horned Owl and Loggerhead Shrike.

14. MARSHALLTOWN (15 mile diameter circle centered on E27 one mile east of Highway 14 and including Union Grove Lake, same as previous years). Dec. 15: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 22-20; wind: 10 mph from NE, cloudy to partly cloudy, snow flurries, 98 percent of lake frozen, small streams open, 4 inches snow on ground. Observers (15) in 4 parties, plus 7 at feeders: Dorothy Brunner, George Crowther, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Glasgow, Orville Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holton, Mr. and Mrs. John King, Carl Kurtz, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lawrence, Mrs. John Mowry, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Roeder, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. James Wignall, and Ruth Zorn.

Details of unusual observations: The one Common Redpoll was seen with a flock of Tree Sparrows.

Other species seen during count period: Cedar Waxwing, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak. Comments: Tape recorder used for Barred Owl.

Comments: Tape recorder used for Barred Owl.

15. **McKAIN'S ACCESS** (15 mile diameter circle centered on McKain's Access (Skunk River) in SW Washington Co., and including Lake Darling State Park, river bottom, county roads, fields, railroad right-of-way). Dec. 23: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp.: 22-32; wind: 0-5 mph from SW, clear changing to partly cloudy, 5 inches snow on ground, river open but ice-filled, some open water at lake. Observers (2) in 1 party: Kathy Fisher (compiler) and Oneita Fisher.

Other species seen during census period: Meadowlark (sp).

Comments: Red-headed Woodpeckers, usually plentiful, were very rare. Pheasant population way down. With increasing destruction of natural cover and food supplies, and nearly all fields fall-plowed, birds were really congregating near open corn cribs and around feed lots. Nearly all Cardinals counted were near one wire crib, where there was also a nearby stand of cedars.

16. **MUSCATINE** (15 mile diameter circle centered on Lock and Dam 16, same as previous years). Dec. 15: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 23-27; wind: 5-15 mph from N, overcast, snow flurries, ground covered with 4 inches old, drifted snow, river 10 percent ice covered. Observers (8) in 3 parties: Ernie Hill, Pat Lanaghan, Ralph Money, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Golden Eagle seen near Buffalo, Prairie, Ill., an immature -- seen in flight (RM, WW).

17. **OAKVILLE** (15 mile diameter circle centered 4 miles E of New Boston, Illinois, same as previous years). Dec. 22: 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 4-30; wind: 5-10 mph from S and SW, mostly clear, ground covered with 4 inches old, drifted snow, river 95 percent ice covered. Observers (5) in 3 parties: Gerald Gill, Ernie Hill, Pat Lanaghan, Peter Petersen (compiler), and Ernie Sadler.

18. **OMAHA** (15 mile diameter circle centered on Offutt Air Force Base Lake including Fontenelle Forest, Plattsmouth Game Refuge, Lake Manawa State Park, and portions of the Missouri and Platt Rivers. Half of this area is in Iowa). Dec. 15: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 8-19; wind: 10-24 mph from N, mostly cloudy with 2-3 inches of fresh snow cover, water partly open. Observers (40) in 11 parties: Rose Anderson, William Bayer, Stephen Bellinghiere, Elsie Bray, Tanya Bray, Don Cassidy, Hal Chase, Graham Chisholm, Marjorie Clayson, Evelyn Conrad, Doris Coppersmith, William Fiske, Garold Gifford, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Harry Harberg, Carr Heaney, Mike Heaney, Clyde and Emma Johnson, Teta Kain, Paul Kaminski, Vance Kaminski, Carolyn Kiper, Jack and Lorraine Kiscoan, Glen LeDioyl, Robert LoPresti, James Malkowski, Marian Meier, Cathy Nelson, Patricia Nicol, Inez Nuland, Morris Peters, Albert Peterson, Marie Pluta, Tony Salada, Kenneth Seger, Roger Sharpe, and Melba Wigg (compiler).

19. **OSKALOOSA** (15 mile diameter circle centered on the Mahaska County courthouse, including Lake Keomah State Park and South Skunk River). Dec. 16: 7:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Temp.: 13-20; wind: none, about 3 inches snow on ground, some open water in rivers, all quiet water frozen. Observers (4) in 1 party, plus 2 at feeders: Bob and Valerie Jessen, Irene and Keith Layton (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: Bald Eagle seen perfectly as it passed closely overhead. Three of the Short-eared Owls seen in one area.

Comments: Red-tailed Hawks must have been migrating as few could be found a few days later.

20. **PINE HOLLOW** (15 mile diameter circle to include Farley, Iowa and White Pine Hollow Preserve). Jan. 1: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Temp.: -15 to -1; wind: 3-5 mph from W, clear, 3 inches of snow on ground. Observers (3) in 1 party: George Crossley (compiler), Howard Higley, and Howard R. Higley.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe found in spring-fed ditches.





# CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

9

	1.	2	3.	4	5.	6.	7.	8	9.	10.	11.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18.	19.	20	21	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	
Yellow bellied Sapsucker	2	15		7	13	14	13	16	11	7	2	5	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	8	4	8	8	7	3	174
Hairy Woodpecker	11	74	1	36	8	60	50	81	26	45	24	22	5	42	3	48	66	62	8	7	65	19	26	21	7	57	972	
Downy Woodpecker	8	121	3	56	4	5	81	36	27	6	36	7	5	5	116	64	218	7	12	254	187	433	19	12	5	172	1303	
Blue Jay	6	106	17	58	2	36	132	108	27	34	17	34	7	45	15	25	79	26	424	265	33	8	33	21	20	56	3462	
Common Crow	40	132	158	86	22	175	1221	251	335	228	556	18	28	124	9	26	424	265	33	8	476	17	9	33	98	242	5555	
Black-capped Chickadee	23	214	18	85	69	179	129	226	128	46	45	75	11	11	127	8	76	34	356	14	6	81	48	59	68	31	17	510
Tufted Titmouse	4	21	22	45	20	42	94	17	40	9	19	8	42	1	1	26	17	47	2	5	28	9	4	25	5	24	637	
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	56	3	32	16	41	18	78	29	48	21	9	8	42	1	12	30	81	3	5	28	9	4	25	5	24	637	
Red-breasted Nuthatch																												
Brown Creeper	1	5		3	1	5	7	9	3	3						12	6	9	4	1	5						74	
Winter Wren	1			2							1					2				2								15
Bewick's Wren																1	1	3										22
Carolina Wren																												2
Mockingbird																												4
Brown Thrasher																												4
American Robin	1	3		1			1	13		2						1	1	41	1		2	1	3		1	70	1	1
Hermil Thrush																												1
Swanson's Thrush																												1
Eastern Bluebird																												1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	8		7							1					2	1	13										27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2			6				21	1							2	1	13										7
Cedar Waxwing	12	1														9												7
Loggerhead Shrike	1																											179
Starling	61	1424	3	378	128	615	926	2801	696	511	231	66	215	704	15	1063	874	1543	37	201	1333	38	1001	1968	464	891	10167	
Yellow-rumped Warbler																												12
House Sparrow	166	1400	53	650	234	507	2666	2368	1185	793	413	584	598	819	328	1422	3095	1674	500	244	3849	176	1617	350	316	1550	27967	
Eastern Meadowlark																												9
Western Meadowlark	6	68	9	6	6	4	4	3460	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Meadowlark sp	26	68	9	6	6	4	4	3460	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Red-winged Blackbird	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Rusky Blackbird	2																											1
Brewer's Blackbird	4	17	1	16	1	1	1	319	2	2						4	1	201		40	5	2	13		1	1	1	5
Common Grackle	5																											3
Brown-headed Cowbird																												630
Blackbird (sp)																												193
Cardinal	36	89	23	183	9	132	219	364	92	104	83	29	4	42	59	201	256	211	94	5	162	84	69	25	10	86	10000	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak																												2671
Evening Grosbeak																												1
Purple Finch																												1
Common Redpoll	17			11		20	8	29	19	23	4	38		3		6	4	12	3		1	1	1		8	207	28	
Pine Siskin																												134
American Goldfinch	15			6			6	18								3	1	1	1	3	3	11	5	66	21	1335	10000	
Red Crossbill	3	105	11	47	22	39	289	177	70	154	6	24	1	27	6	69	39	121	3	6	42	19	42	6				31
Rufous-sided Towhee																												2
Vesper Sparrow	1																											3
Dark-eyed Junco	101	962	130	739	32	390	548	936	387	263	324	66	16	287	127	794	1269	961	350	9	1543	160	888	221	262	505	12290	
Tree Sparrow	9	369	35	565	108	762	624	944	60	166	860	226		145	37	671	1152	410	225	9	2121	213	936	181	458	557	11066	
Chipping Sparrow																												2
Field Sparrow																												1
Harris' Sparrow																												2
White-crowned Sparrow																												2
White-throated Sparrow																												2
Fox Sparrow																												2
Lincoln's Sparrow																												2
Swamp Sparrow																												2
Song Sparrow																												2
Lapland Longspur	10	70																										23
Snow Bunting																												402
No. of Species	35	53	24	48	23	54	61	81	42	38	38	34	18	37	24	66	53	66	31	23	60	45	44	35	29	39	111	
No. of Observers	2	32	3	10	4	19	11	35	17	7	9	9	3	15	2	8	5	40	4	3	5	17	11	9	11	4	290	
No. of Parties	1	14	1	4	2	5	5	19	5	4	4	3	1	4	1	1	3	3	11	1	1	4	5	5	6	3	114	

21. PRINCETON (15 mile diameter circle centered at Folletts, Iowa, same as previous years). Dec. 23: 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 9-28; wind: 3-15 mph from E, partly cloudy to overcast, ground covered by 4 inches old, drifted snow, river 50 percent ice covered. Observers (5) in 4 parties: Elton Fawks, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, and Cal Snyder.

Comments: Large concentrations of eagles chiefly at nuclear power plant. Meadowlarks very common along roads. Mixed flocks of longspurs and Snow Buntings seen near Clinton Airport.

22. RATHBUN LAKE (15 mile diameter circle centered 2 miles south of the Glenview area, including all public use areas plus county roads leading from Seymour and Centerville). Dec. 15: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp.: 23-28; wind: from north, cloudy and snow flurries, ground snow covered but much open water on the lake. Observers (17) in 5 parties: Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Mrs. Gladys Black, Mr. and Mrs. Craig Coulter, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Davis, Yvonne DeHoet, Catherine Evans, Pearl Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Gold, Bill Heusinkveld, Alice McMurry, Kay Malmberg, Elva Neighbour, and Charlotte Scott (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: The Old Squaws were sighted in the dam area by the party which included the Ayres. Later the Park Officer confirmed that they had been seeing them for some time.

Comments: Apparently this is another invasion year of Short-eared Owls. We are continuing to see them since the count. The lack of Red-headed Woodpeckers is unusual, and more Cardinals than usual were sighted. We are missing the winter Mockingbirds we have had in previous years.

23. SHENANDOAH (15 mile diameter circle centered on Farragut and including Riverton, orchards and woods 45 percent, coniferous woodland including cemetery 10 percent, farmland and prairie 45 percent). Dec. 15: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 10-17; wind: 10-15 mph from NW, partly cloudy, snow cover 1-3 inches, water partly open. Observers (11) in 5 parties, plus 2 at feeders: Don Burrichter, Craig Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Fitchugh Diggs, Mrs. Walter Knoll, Ruth Phipps (compiler), Wayne Phipps, Mrs. Eldon Spears, Mrs. Edward Vaughn, Susan Vaughn, and Mrs. Donald Walters.

Details of unusual observations: The Bald Eagle and Snowy Owl were seen by Mrs. Phipps, Mrs. Spears, and Mrs. Walters. The Snowy Owl had been reported in the area three weeks before by Don Priebe, Conservation Officer. White-winged form of Dark-eyed Junco also seen and banded.

Other species seen during the census period: Brown Creeper, Mockingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Rusty Blackbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and White-crowned Sparrow.

24. SIOUX CITY (15 mile diameter circle centered on Sioux City Auditorium, same as previous years). Dec. 15: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp.: 4-19; wind: 13 mph from NW, 3 inches loose snow on ground, partly cloudy and cold, open water in some areas. Observers (9) in 6 parties: Ken Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Benne, Marv Crim, Sam Dunkle, Warren Green, George Marsh, Robert L. Nickolson (compiler), and Mrs. Ralph Payne.

Details of unusual observations: Six Pine Grosbeaks observed at the Robert Nickolson residence at close range during the count period.

Other species seen during census period: Snow Goose, American Robin, and Pine Grosbeak.

Comments: Lack of hawks and owls.

25. WAPSIPINICON RIVER VALLEY (15 mile diameter circle centered in Sec. 2, Mayfield Township, Bremer County, farmland 75 percent, woodland 25 percent). Dec. 22: 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp.: 6-18; wind: 0-5 mph from SE to E, partly cloudy, snow cover 0-5 inches, water partly open, flowing. Observers (11) in 3 parties: Myrle M. Burk (compiler), Antoinette Camarata, Richard Evans, Russell Hays, Mr. and Mrs. Kirchgatter, Morton Konig, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Miller, Florence Pierces, and Maryann Rizzo.

Details of unusual observations: Snowy Owl very large, probably female.

Comments: Probably due to concentrated hunting of pheasants, birds seemed wary; flying when automobile stopped. Due to quick flight we were not able to identify species of meadowlarks.

26. WHEATLAND (15 mile diameter circle centered in Wheatland). Dec. 26: 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Observers (10) in 4 parties. Esther Copp, Peter Petersen, Jeanette Ruprecht, Ernest Sadler, Mildred and Leroy Schutt, Brent Smith, Gary Smith, Charles Wentworth, and June Wentworth.

Details of unusual observations: Brewer's Blackbird checked with field guide for all characters.

Other species seen during the census period: Marsh Hawk and Common Grackle.

## BANDING REPORT



# Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1973

KEITH AND IRENE LAYTON  
201 High Ave. West  
OSKALOOSA

Here we are again with the results of another productive year of "harvesting" Iowa's great bird crop. Many excellent banding reports were turned in. Some banders seemed to concentrate on a special activity, like Dean Roosa for instance, with a whopping total of 34 Red-tailed Hawks, in fact nobody else banded one. Great work Dean! Pete led the herd with impressive totals of 121 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 50 Magnolia Warblers, 154 Grackles, and was exclusive with the entire 7 Saw-whet Owls and the only 2 Barred Owls banded. Dean banded all 5 Great Horned Owls, and three banders reported Screech Owls for a total of 6. Dean and Pete split the only 2 Cooper's Hawks banded. I believe we are not going out after owls like we should, they really aren't that scarce. Let's get 'em! Bob Jessen here in Oskaloosa, and myself are at this time, (Feb. 23rd), watching a Great Horned Owls nest containing two eggs, waiting for them to hatch any day.

Diggs had a big total of 135 Swainson's Thrush. Our 23 Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently led the state in '73, Diggs took the other Woodpecker honors with 25 Flickers, 46 Downys and 16 Red-bellied. Pete's 2 Wood Ducks make us envious. We were pleased to net 102 Indigo Buntings, 113 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 26 Cowbirds and 146 Red-winged Blackbirds. Absent this year was the Chuck-wills-widow, first reported in 1969 by the Ayres, and again in '71 and '72.



John Bowles banded 35 birds of 7 species in Yucatan, Mexico, which of course we can't report. It's interesting to note that all were species that are reported here in Iowa by many banders.

Our somewhat exclusive "ONLY ONE CLUB" this year shows some interesting results. If you recall, it is composed of those banders who banded the only single bird of a species during the year.

PETER C. PETERSEN came up with a very rare Cattle Egret, a Goshawk, Worm-eating Warbler, Ring-necked Pheasant, Broad-winged Hawk, and a Short-billed Marsh Wren. Wow! OK Pete, you get to stay in the club. He was King of the Crows this year with 2.

FITZHUGH & HAZEL DIGGS seem to be second runners with some real dandies -- one each of Leconte's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Long-eared Owl, and Merlin. Any extras you get, could we have 'em? Also banded one so rare Painted Bunting at the cemetery at Appleton City, Missouri.

MR. & MRS. HOMER RINEHART didn't report last year, welcome back with your Club entry fee of one Yellow-throated Vireo, one Parula Warbler, and one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and one Clay-colored Sparrow.

KEITH & IRENE LAYTON join in with a Virginia Rail captured on the north side of the city square right in downtown Oskaloosa. (We band close to home and conserve energy.), also one Spotted Sandpiper and one Cape May Warbler.

CHARLES & DARLEEN AYRES, last but not least, bring us that ever welcome Summer Tanager, and one Yellow-throated Warbler, only the second ever banded in Iowa.

It was a great year. Most birds seem to have held their numbers very well. Very few Shrikes were banded -- many were seen I'm sure. The same goes for Meadowlarks, Chimney Swifts, Herons, and many others. How come nobody catches a Horned Lark? We have seen hundreds this year. Banding helps, but doesn't always tell a true story of bird populations. Not one Killdeer was caught this year. Dickcissels torment us all summer with a pair for every telephone pole, it seems, in our area, yet we banded only 18, state total only 40. Man! They're slippery! Diggs had their first Evening Grosbeak and White-eyed Vireo. Too many other interesting things to mention.

Pete led all private banders with 3,461 individuals of 107 species. Laytons led in number of species with 113 and 2,914 birds. Diggs were right in there with 110 species and 2,360 individuals.

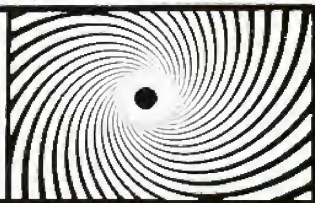
Bander	Species	Individuals
Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa .....	89	2,048
Gladys Black, Pleasantville .....	29	85
Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo .....	Inactive in 1973	
John B. Bowles, Pello .....	13	28
Richard B. Crawford, Ames .....	4	25
Iowa Conservation Commission .....	14	6,043
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Lamoni .....	68	1,086
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs .....	110	2,360
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa .....	113	2,914
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport .....	107	3,461
Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah .....	65	1,104
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown .....	72	638
Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield .....	3	40
Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex .....	39	184

Incidentally, heartiest congratulations from all of I. O. U. I'm sure, to the Diggs, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 30th, 1973. Many more good years of "happy banding" to you folks! We lost two banders, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonnecker who moved to Texas in spring of 1973. Mr. Lonnecker died suddenly in Texas on May 15, 1973. Mrs. Lonnecker resides at 727 Thoma, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Heron	6	Downy Woodpecker	186
Cattle Egret	1	Eastern Kingbird	32
Canada Goose	410	Great Crested Flycatcher	28
Mallard	1,022	Eastern Phoebe	23
Black Duck	1	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	82
Gadwall	11	Acadian Flycatcher	60
Pintail	60	Willow Flycatcher	41
Green-winged Teal	29	Least Flycatcher	99
Blue-winged Teal	601	Empidonax sp. Flycatcher	5
Shoveler	3	Eastern Wood Pewee	31
Redhead	5	Olive-sided Flycatcher	4
Lesser Scaup	2	Bank Swallow	13
Ruddy Duck	4	Rough-winged Swallow	11
Wood Duck	1,190	Barn Swallow	109
Goshawk	1	Cliff Swallow	30
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	Purple Martin	40
Cooper's Hawk	2	Blue Jay	289
Red-tailed Hawk	34	Common Crow	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Black-capped Chickadee	156
Merlin	1	Tufted Titmouse	68
American Kestrel	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	44
Bob-White	13	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Brown Creeper	89
Virginia Rail	1	House Wren	250
Sora	2	Winter Wren	23
American Coot	201	Carolina Wren	3
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Long-billed Marsh Wren	6
Mourning Dove	2,524	Short-billed Marsh Wren	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	29	Mockingbird	15
Black-billed Cuckoo	12	Catbird	553
Screech Owl	6	Brown Thrasher	224
Great Horned Owl	5	American Robin	637
Barred Owl	2	Wood Thrush	20
Long-eared Owl	1	Hermit Thrush	42
Saw-whet Owl	7	Swainson's Thrush	366
Whip-poor-will	6	Gray-cheeked Thrush	125
Common Nighthawk	11	Veery	30
Chimney Swift	3	Eastern Bluebird	131
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	11	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Belted Kingfisher	5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	90
Common Flicker	83	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	284
Red-bellied Woodpecker	39	Cedar Waxwing	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	47	Loggerhead Shrike	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11	Starling	37
Hairy Woodpecker	31	White-eyed Vireo	6
		Bell's Vireo	3

Yellow-throated Vireo .....	1	Red-winged Blackbird .....	193
Solitary Vireo .....	26	Orchard Oriole .....	14
Red-eyed Vireo .....	99	Northern Oriole .....	97
Philadelphia Vireo .....	17	Rusty Blackbird .....	19
Warbling Vireo .....	21	Brewer's Blackbird .....	2
Black-and-white Warbler .....	64	Common Grackle .....	322
Worm-eating Warbler .....	1	Brown-headed Cowbird .....	80
Blue-winged Warbler .....	6	Scarlet Tanager .....	7
Tennessee Warbler .....	105	Summer Tanager .....	1
Orange-crested Warbler .....	74	Cardinal .....	241
Nashville Warbler .....	254	Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	230
Parula Warbler .....	1	Blue Grosbeak .....	1
Yellow Warbler .....	30	Indigo Bunting .....	229
Magnolia Warbler .....	70	Dickeissel .....	40
Cape May Warbler .....	1	Evening Grosbeak .....	5
Black-throated Blue Warbler ..	6	Purple Finch .....	817
Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	220	Pine Siskin .....	149
Black-throated Green Warbler ..	6	American Goldfinch .....	1,487
Blackburnian Warbler .....	2	Red Crossbill .....	2
Yellow-throated Warbler .....	1	Rusous-sided Towhee .....	12
Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	30	Savannah Sparrow .....	11
Bay-breasted Warbler .....	11	Grasshopper Sparrow .....	11
Blackpoll Warbler .....	40	LeConte's Sparrow .....	1
Palm Warbler .....	17	Vesper Sparrow .....	12
Ovenbird .....	107	Lark Sparrow .....	3
Northern Waterthrush .....	81	Dark-eyed Junco .....	1,311
Louisiana Waterthrush .....	2	Tree Sparrow .....	206
Kentucky Warbler .....	9	Chipping Sparrow .....	90
Connecticut Warbler .....	6	Clay-colored Sparrow .....	1
Mourning Warbler .....	44	Field Sparrow .....	133
Yellowthroat .....	176	Harris Sparrow .....	121
Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2	White-crowned Sparrow .....	41
Wilson's Warbler .....	52	White-throated Sparrow .....	592
Canada Warbler .....	41	Fox Sparrow .....	151
American Redstart .....	84	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	230
House Sparrow .....	13	Swamp Sparrow .....	109
Eastern Meadowlark .....	5	Song Sparrow .....	388
Western Meadowlark .....	7	Total species .....	167
Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	152	Total individuals .....	20,009

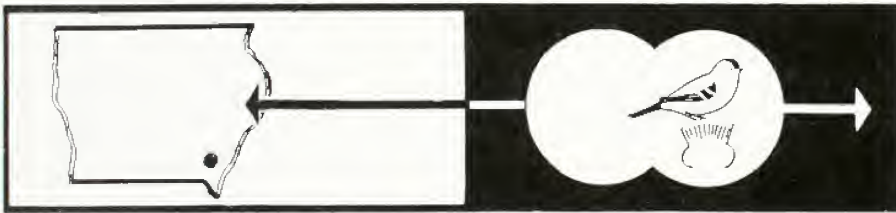
## OBITUARIES



Mrs. Adaline T. Lambert was born Adaline Reeve Train at Dows, Iowa, November 7, 1891. Her father was Robert E. Train, a local judge and school teacher, and her mother was Beulah Reeve Train. Adaline attended Dows High



School and two years at Iowa State College in Ames. She then transferred to the University of Minnesota, where she received her degree of Bachelor of Arts in Literature in 1915. She married Howard Theodore Lambert, and the couple moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where her husband took graduate work. After filling teaching jobs in Fromberg, Montana; Anamoose, North Dakota; and Iowa Falls, Iowa, the couple moved to one of Mrs. Lambert's farms near Dows, Iowa, in 1921. There they stayed until 1931, when they moved to Hampton. In 1942 the family moved to Sioux City. Here Mrs. Lambert was active in the Audubon Society and the Sioux City Bird Club, and served on the Executive Council of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. She also served as chairman of the Altar Committee and took other active parts in the functions of the Mayflower Church in Sioux City. Mrs. Lambert did a great deal of oil painting in her later years and took prizes for these as well as for her flower arrangements. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, and Alpha Gamma Delta. She moved with her husband to San Jose, California, in 1972. Mr. Lambert died in San Jose in August of last year. She is survived by six children: Jane Patterson of Los Alamos, New Mexico; John of Palo Alto, California; Howard of London, England; Robert of River Falls, Wisconsin; James of Portland, Oregon; and Mary Sears of Tehran, Iran. Mrs. Lambert died of heart failure on January 7, 1974 at the Julia Sanitarium in Mountain View, California. There was a memorial service at the Mayflower Church in Sioux City, Iowa. -- JOHN B. LAMBERT, 944 Dennis Drive, Palo Alto, Ca. 94303.



## Birding Areas of Southeast Iowa

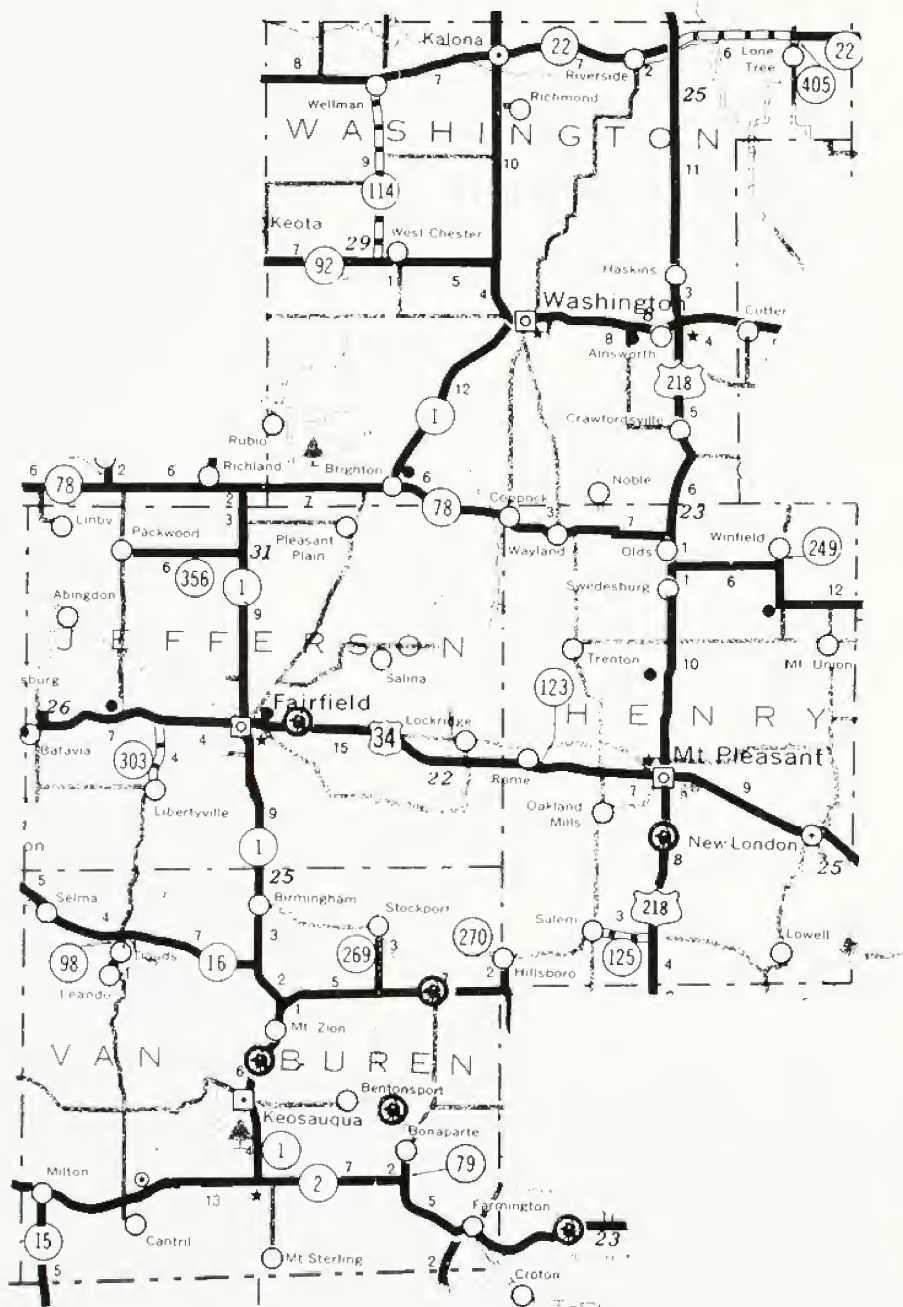
ROY OLLIVIER

Box 223

MT. PLEASANT

The Four-County region made up of Washington, Jefferson, Henry, and Van Buren Counties is highly developed agriculturally, however there are some wild and undeveloped woods. The area is crossed by two rivers, the Des Moines and the Skunk, both of which are wooded along their banks, and a trip along them is quite rewarding at almost any time of year. Also many wooded areas and farm ponds are privately owned but there should be no difficulty in obtaining permission to explore them by asking the owner and explaining your purpose.

At one time there was a breeding colony of Great Blue Herons at the junction of Big and Little Cedar Creeks. Unfortunately it has not been occupied the past few years. Upland Sandpipers were also not unusual in Henry County and one nest is on record, though these have not been seen in recent years. There are several state, county, and city parks where birds may be seen. A list of them follows:



FOUR COUNTY AREA

**Lake Darling** -- This state park is located about five miles west of Brighton and the entrance is from Highway 78. During the summer the lake is used for boating, swimming, and fishing. Best birding times are early spring, when there's usually a large concentration of water fowl, and winter. The south end of the lake is somewhat marshy, and ducks, rails, herons and shore birds may be seen there. Waterfowl often congregate near the dam and in the water near the camping area. The land areas of the park offer a variety of cover -- mature trees, brush, and open grasslands -- which attract sparrows, woodpeckers, and many other small birds.

(Whip-poor-wills nest in all areas of the park, especially near the camping area. Spring warbler concentrations are usually fair to good. Winter birding is excellent, with Bluebirds and Robins often in residence, along with the usual winter birds. A Peregrine Falcon was recorded at the lake on the 1972 Christmas Count, and the park area is good for hawks at all times of the year. A pond on the Lake Darling Youth Center road off Hwy. 78 about a mile east of the park entrance is a very good waterfowl area in the spring, with as many as eight different species -- Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Horned Grebes, etc. -- present at one time. K.F.)

**Fairfield** -- At the east edge of Fairfield along Highway 34 there is a large city park which has many large trees and also some less well kept grounds. This park attracts many small birds. Northeast of town there is a reservoir where ducks have been seen. Shore birds also frequent the margins of the lake.

**Lacey-Keosauqua State Park** -- This is one of the largest state parks, covering some 2000 acres. It is just south of the Des Moines River bridge at Keosauqua. It offers a variety of habitats, from mature trees to open grass areas mowed for picnicing. This park is so large that hawks, owls and Turkey Vultures may use it for nesting. At one time it had been stocked with Turkeys but whether any remain is not certain.

**Shimek State Forest** -- Along Highway 2 east of Farmington there have been extensive plantings of evergreens now grown to heights of 30 or 40 feet. Other parts of the forest are made up of mixed hardwood trees. This is a very large forest consisting of several separated parts, all providing nesting areas for hawks, owls etc. This forest has also been stocked with Turkeys.

**Geode State Park** -- Geode is in the southeast corner of Henry County. It can be reached by going east of New London about two miles to the sign for the park and following the gravel road into the park. Also by going to Lowell and east out of town, this gravel road will lead to the park. This park is spacious enough so that the recreational area used need not interfere with the bird watcher. Many foot paths lead into the wooded areas and are well worth a leisurely stroll. There is also a large lake which harbors a great many waterfowl during spring and fall. The upper end of this lake has filled in, become marshy, and would be well worth inspecting for shore birds, rails, and herons.

**Mount Pleasant** -- Saunders Park is an excellent place to see the smaller birds, and some years during spring migration there have been large numbers of warblers recorded. During the winter the usual winter birds feed here and occasionally a rarity shows up such as Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak. The park is developed for picnicing, but there are some natural sections left untouched. To reach the park go two blocks south from Highway 34, turn west on Warren Street which goes into the east side of the park.

East Park is a recently acquired park and may be reached by going east two miles from the city square to the airport road, then south .6 mile where the park and lake may be seen on the west side of the road. The lake covers about three



acres where such birds as Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Lesser-legs, Belted Kingfisher, and American Coot may often be seen. The upper end of the lake is marshy and offers nesting places for Red-winged Blackbirds and others. Hedges of small trees and multiflora rose bound the east side of the lake, providing cover for small land birds. The remainder of the park is mostly undeveloped grassland.

**Henry County Conservation Areas** -- Oakland Mills Park was once a state park but is now administered by the county. The main part lies across the Skunk River from the town of Oakland Mills along the bluffs overlooking the river. This is heavily wooded but several paths lead through it. In the spring there is a good display of wild flowers as well as birds. Woodcocks are seen here and it would be no surprise to find them nesting in the park. Across the river and east of the main part there is another section of the park which has been left wild. It consists of mature trees and much undergrowth, no paths having been built into it. Across the blacktopped road from Oakland Mills there is also a small access area to the river at the city water works. Many small birds may be seen there.

Another county owned area, Mud Creek Park, lies south of New London six miles, almost to the town of Lowell, where a sign marks the turn into the park. It consists of some woods and a brushy hillside where birds may nest.

The newest land which has just been acquired by the County Conservation Board can be found by going up the hill on the blacktop south from Oakland Mills. At the top of the hill a gravel road turns west. Follow this to Big Cedar Creek where the woods south of the road on either side of the creek make up the area. It consists of 160 acres most of which is covered by timber with considerable underbrush. This region has not yet been opened to the public, but in years past I have seen many birds there including nesting Whip-poor-wills.

**Other County Areas** -- Van Buren County has one sizable park, the 122 acre Indian Lake Park. Located just southwest of Farmington, it consists of good birding area during the migration season. ed.

(Turkeys are widespread all along the river, and eagles are resident winter and summer along the bluffs west of Bentonsport. K.F.)

Washington County has many small county areas which may produce interesting birds. They include Fern Cliff Area, 12 mi. S. E. of Washington, Foster Woods, 1½ mi. S. W. of Wellman, and Iowa Township Park, just north of Riverside. Sockum Ridge Park is over two hundred acres and is located 5 mi. S. E. of Washington. It has many hiking trails which are good for birding at all seasons. The newest area is the Brinton Forest Area, over three hundred acres and located 3 mi. N. W. of Brighton. This has lots of good cover for birds and should become a fine area. ed)

(At McKain's River Access, 6 mi. N.W. of Brighton, a dirt road winds west and north and is excellent for birding. (Watch the railroad crossing; it's the Burlington main line!) Hayes Timber, just at the west edge of Washington, is one of the finest birding areas in the county during spring migration when warblers are abundant. Both Hooded and Parula Warblers have been seen there. This is a virgin timber, and in addition to the plentiful bird-life, contains enormous walnut trees which were a source of controversy a couple of years ago when the county conservation board tried to sell them; public outcry stopped the deal. K.F.)

Due to the large area covered by this report it has been supplemented by the editor, material in ( ) and Kathy Fisher, material marked (K.F.)

## CONVENTION



The Ottumwa Bird Club is busily preparing to host the spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists Union on May 10, 11, 12. All meals and events except the field trips will be held on the Ottumwa Heights College campus in the northeast section of Ottumwa.

The weekend will begin with a reception and program on Friday evening, May 10. Early Saturday morning a field trip in the vicinity of the college will be led by members of the local organization. There are several types of habitat within walking distance of the college with especially good warbler territory close.

The Sunday field trips are being designed to achieve a maximum variety of habitats with a minimum amount of mileage in case of gas problems. We hope the latter will not be a serious factor at that time and local Bird Club members will be available with their cars to alleviate the problem.

We are hoping for a record number of members to attend. Don't overlook the possibility of encouraging others to attend with you. See you in May!!!! -- JUDGE CHARLES C. AYRES, JR., President, Ottumwa Bird Club

## FIELD REPORTS



Due to the absence of Woodward Brown, on vacation in Central America during February, the editor compiled the field reports for the winter season. It is hoped that no reports were left out in the process, but if this has occurred we are indeed sorry.

The weather was somewhat unusual during the latter half of the winter. Late November, December and early January were reasonably normal with some snowfall and periods of sub-zero temperature. Since then, at least in eastern Iowa, it has been very spring-like. Precipitation has been light and confined primarily to rain. Temperatures have been mild with very few sub-zero readings and none during the daylight hours. Birds are arriving early in many cases and it is hoped no severe weather will bother them. Those commenting on birds in general felt the birding fairly routine to dull. Winter finches, except for Evening Grosbeaks, appeared in reasonably strong numbers, especially since mid-January. Noteworthy was the decrease in wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers, probably the result of an April freeze which almost completely eliminated the acorn crop over most of the state. See the Christmas Census reports for additional winter season data.



**Waterfowl** -- Two Mute Swans were present near Princeton mid-January to 10 February (ES). The first migrant geese on the Missouri River arrived 12 February at Hamburg (IG) and a flock of over one hundred Canadas was seen 20 February at Davenport flying west (downstream) over the Mississippi (PP). Mallards reached a peak of 20,000 in November at Red Rock Reservoir with about 500 wintering (GB). The wintering Mallards being fed along the Mississippi at Davenport, LeClaire, Camanche and Clinton (see D. M. Register, 22 February) continue to increase. Some of the birds seen with them include several Blacks at all locations, a Shoveler 8 December at LeClaire, a female Hooded Merganser at Davenport 24 December and a male at LeClaire all winter feeding on corn with the Mallards, a pair of Buffleheads at LeClaire 23 February, and two Old Squaw at LeClaire most of January and still present 23 February (PP). Five Black Ducks were seen at Cedar Lake 1 January (LS). The two Wood Ducks seen on the Des Moines Christmas Census were still present 28 January (WB). Ten early arriving Canvasbacks were seen near Princeton 17 February (PP). Lesser Scaup numbering several thousand were still present above Lock 13 on 8 December and 3-400 new arrivals were seen 17 February near LeClaire (PP). Two late Buffleheads were seen at Princeton 8 December (PP). Cedar Lake produced a Ruddy Duck and two Hooded Mergansers on 1 January and two Red-breasted Mergansers on 18 February (LS).

**Hawks** -- Three Goshawks were reported in addition to those seen on the Christmas Censuses, 9 December at Davenport (PP), 30 December near Dumont and 3 February at Cedar Falls (MK). Sharp-shinned were seen several times at Iowa City (NH). Cooper's Hawks were present in fair numbers at Cedar Falls (MK). Rough-legged Hawks were seen only three times in the Iowa City area (FK,NH). The 16 February Bald Eagle count along the Mississippi stands at 417 for the Iowa areas with some areas not yet reported. Details will be in the June issue of I. B. L. (PP). Marsh Hawks and American Kestrels were down at Iowa City (FK,NH).

**Turkeys, Coots, Shorebirds** -- A single Turkey was seen near Cedar Falls several times in January (MK). An American Coot wintered at Cedar Lake, still surviving 24 January (LS). Ten Common Snipe were seen 8 December near Shenandoah (RP).

**Gulls, Doves, Parrots** -- A Glaucous Gull was seen 9 December at Lock 14 and 23 February at Credit Island (PP). Mourning Doves were up at Cedar Falls with flocks of as many as 35 (MK). The first Iowa record for the Monk Parakeet is detailed in the General Notes section (PP).

**Owls, Woodpeckers** -- Snowy Owls were seen at Littleport, Clayton Co., all winter (MK); in northern Blackhawk Co., two in Mid-November with one still present 22 December (MB); and four in the Shenandoah area (IG,RP). The only Long-eared Owl mentioned was one seen 9 February near Central City (LS). Short-eared Owls were present in many areas, numerous at Shenandoah up to 18 December (RP); maximum of 15 near Cedar Falls (MK); maximum of 8 east of Pleasantville (GB); up to 10 west of Iowa City (NH); and 5 west of D. M. (GB). Two Saw-whet Owls were seen north of the Coralville Reservoir by Robert Vane (FK). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported down without exception, many Christmas Census totals were reduced to only five percent the usual total. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a regular visitor at east Davenport feeders (PP, MR).



**Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens** -- Tufted Titmice were scarce at Iowa City (NH) but up after several years absence at Marble Rock (PK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally scarce, none at Iowa City (NH), only one at Des Moines, Mrs. Laurence Waters feeder (WB) and a maximum of 4 at Cedar Falls on 26 January (MK). A Bewick's Wren was a regular feeder visitor at Cedar Falls, see longer note (MK). A Carolina Wren was a regular feeder visitor in Iowa City (FK); several at Davenport (PP); one at Hamburg in late November (IG) and one banded at Ottumwa on 1 January (CA).

**Mimics, Thrushes, Kinglets** -- Wintering Mockingbirds are reported from Essex (BW), Cedar Rapids (LS) and Wellman (BH). A Brown Thrasher wintered at the Almes feeder at Clarinda (fide HH). Wintering American Robins are reported from Cedar Falls (MK), Iowa City (FK), Davenport (PP), Shenandoah (RP) and four at Hamburg 3 February (IG). Other thrushes remained later than usual, a Hermit was seen at Davenport on 24 December (PP), a Swainson's on the Clinton Christmas Census 29 December (FL) and a Gray-cheeked on 12 December at Davenport (MLP). Eastern Bluebirds were at Hamburg 1 February (IG). A lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at Iowa City on 22 December (NH).

**Blackbirds** -- Meadowlarks were up at Cedar Falls and Davenport and one was seen 12 January near Waubeek (LS). The blackbird roost at Nahant Marsh numbered about 5000 Red-wings, 1,000 Common Grackles, and 500 Brown-headed Cowbirds, a few Rusties and three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Walter Dau's feeder 23 December. Other cowbirds were seen in December at Lamoni (FS) and at Beverly 5 January (LS).

**Finches** -- Two immature Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Mrs. Adolph Johnson's feeder at Carlisle (WB). The only Evening Grosbeak reported was one from Iowa City 9 December (NH). Purple Finches were considered few at Des Moines, but were common at Hamburg, Iowa City (NH) and Davenport. Common Redpolls became more common after the census period, with 50-100 at Des Moines 2 February (SB); 400-500 near Central City 7 February (S); a small flock at Marble Rock 24 January (PK) and many sightings during January and February at Cedar Falls and Davenport. Pine Siskins were reported from several areas, Sioux City (IG); Des Moines (WB) and Davenport where 75 were banded in January and February (PP). Eight Red Crossbills were seen 7 February near Central City (LS) and five were banded at Davenport 23 and 27 January (PP). White-winged were more widespread with two at Cedar Falls on 9 February (MK); three at two Cedar Rapids feeders (LS); two banded 22 January at Davenport (PP); Iowa City from 7 February on (FK) and 27 December (NH); and one banded at Ottumwa 17 February (CA). A Vesper Sparrow was seen at Swisher 5 January (LS). Harris' Sparrows were numerous at Shenandoah (RP) and Hamburg (IG). Lapland Longspurs were seen at Iowa City, three on 8 January (NH), and a flock of 200 at Shell Rock 12 January (MK) along with about fifteen Snow Buntings.

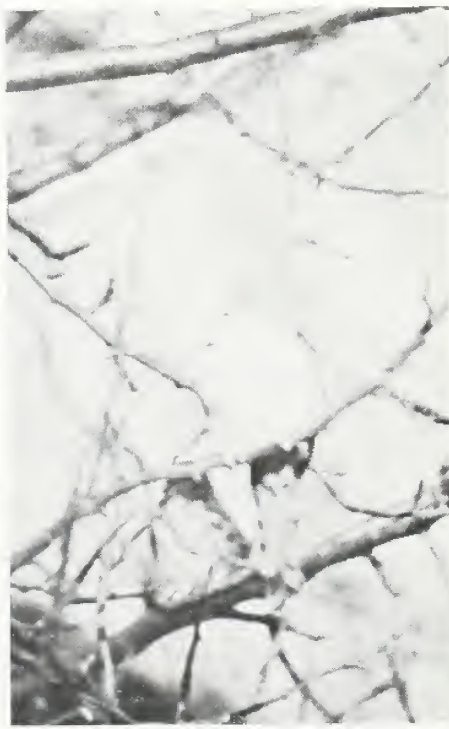
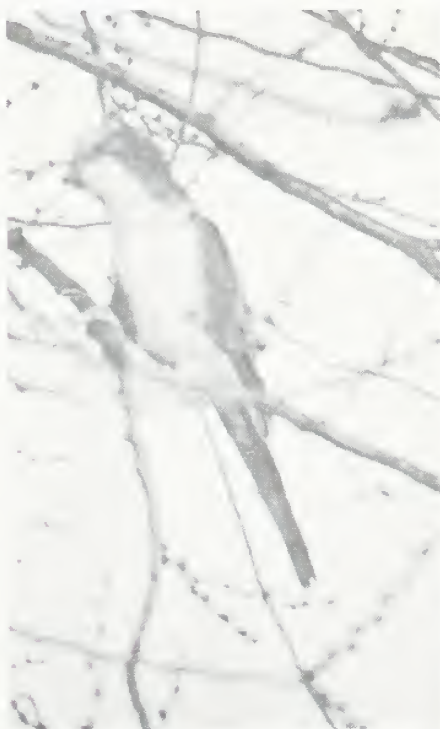
**Contributors:** Mrs. Charles Ayres, Gladys Black, Woodward Brown, Dr. Myrle Burk, Stuart Burns, Walter Dau, Ione Getsher, Dr. Nicholas Halmi, Barbara Henderson, Helen Hoskinson, F. W. Kent, Martin Konig, Pearl Knoop, Fred Leshner, Peter and Mary Lou Petersen, Ruth Phipps, Mary Rose, Ernie Sadler, Lillian Serbousek, Fernandi Silver and Betty Walters.

Notes on spring migration should be submitted by 20 May to Woodward Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312. ed.

## GENERAL NOTES



**First Monk Parakeet Record for Iowa** -- With the outbreak and spread of Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsetta monachus*) in Illinois, chiefly the Chicago area, (Illinois Audubon Bulletin, No. 166, p. 29-30) it seemed like only a matter of time until they made their way to Iowa. Aware of this possibility, Fred Lorenzen, Outdoor Editor of the Times-Democrat, Davenport, wrote a story advising people to be on the lookout for the birds at their feeders. The story ran on Dec. 16, 1973, the day of the Davenport Christmas Bird Census. Two reports were received with accurate descriptions, one from Moline and one from northwest Davenport where Mr. Charles Craft, 2325 N. Gayman Ave., observed one at his feeder. The bird remained in the area and was seen by Mrs. Karen McDonald at 2118 N. Ohio on Dec. 22 and 23. Mrs. McDonald had discovered the wintering Yellow-breasted Chat in 1971 (I. B. L. Vol. 42 p. 26) and reported the parakeet to the writer. Good weather for photography on December 28, 1973, permitted the writer to obtain several color slides with a 500m.m. lens, two of which are here reproduced in black-and-white.



Monk Parakeet, showing size compared with a House Sparrow. Photo by Peter C. Petersen



One shows the bird near a House Sparrow for size comparison. This constitutes the first Iowa record for this species. No decision has been made by federal authorities as to what will be done, but it seems logical that control measures must be begun soon if they are to have any chance of success.

The birds are chiefly a rich kelly green with a pale gray throat and breast and blue primaries and secondaries. They are slightly slimmer than a Mourning Dove but about the same size. They have spread from accidental airport releases and intentional releases by pet shop owners and purchasers. The Davenport bird was present until about January 15. It will be interesting to follow the status of this bird and its economic impact in the future. PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.

**Goodies in Nebraska in 1973** -- Besides the birds we banded in Missouri and Iowa, Fitzhugh and I banded 892 birds of 70 species in Nebraska in 1973. The interesting part is the stories that go with some of these days work in Lincoln and the Bellevue - Omaha areas.

On March 27 we were invited to come to the John Ott residence in Lincoln to band some birds and celebrate Fitzhugh's 75th birthday. We were there by 6 a.m. and by 6:30 we had put up 4 nets to enclose about a 40 square foot area in the back yard where hung one 12" by 24" feeding tray from a horizontal tree limb. As many as 25 birds of 7 species were feeding on this tray at a time with more on the ground picking up seeds that were scratched out. The Otts had said they thought we could net as many as a 100 birds. Going over, I asked Fitzhugh what he thought. He said he had no doubt that they had that many coming to the feeder but, could we get them in the nets? Soon the nets were colorful with birds. It kept 5 of us busy until 9:30 when we took a 5 minute break for coffee and hot rolls only to find the nets full again. We removed them from the nets, banded, recorded and released as fast as our fingers would let us. By noon we had well over 100 birds. Tommy Thomas had baked the birthday cake and brought it over for dinner. His wife didn't get there until afternoon. Fortunately the birds had their siesta about the time we ate. We kept watching the nets and slipping out to remove any that were in. Six of us worked all afternoon until supper-time, after which we banded more birds. The results - American Goldfinch 149, Starling 6, Dark-eyed Junco 3, Cardinal 2, Blue Jay 3, Pine Siskin 42, Red Crossbill 16, Purple Finch 12, and one Robin, totaling 234 birds. Whew!! What a days work but a real fun "Birthday" day. To cap it all we had a banded Goldfinch that turned out to be one that Ruth Zollars Phipps of Shenandoah had banded in her backyard in mid-March 1972.

A month later we went back to see what we could pick up. We banded 185 birds that day April 27th - 121 of which were American Goldfinch, 28 Pine Siskin, 9 Red Crossbill. The rest were made up of 3 Purple Finch, 4 Common Grackle, 1 Harris' Sparrow, 7 Starling, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 3 House Sparrow, 2 Cardinal, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird, 2 Chickadee and 2 Downy Woodpecker. There were only about 10 retakes from those banded the month before. Is it any wonder that John and Mabel thought they might have to cut their grocery bills in half to be able to continue feeding their back yard friends?

Dr. Esther Bennett, city naturalists in charge of the Chet Ager Nature Center at Pioneers Park, Lincoln, asked us to come band birds at the Center May 15 and talk to the school children, their teachers and leaders as they took part in the hikes included in the field day at the Nature Center. The second graders of Weeping



Water had asked that she invite us to be there as they enjoyed the talks and banding demonstrations that we gave in 1972. Dr. Bennett assured us she had 4 groups of 150 to 160 lined up for the day. At daylight 6 of us were putting up nets. When the birds began to get caught in the nets we ladies started removing and banding them while the fellows continued putting up the rest of the nets. The first group arrived at our banding station at 9 a.m. and business was in full swing. By 5 o'clock when we took our nets down we had banded 110 birds (let 10 get away), had 10 returns from banding in 1972 and had talked to 10 groups totaling 430. When things snowball, they snowball!!! We had two groups from Crete, one from Weeping Water and one from Sidney, Iowa with the rest from the Lincoln Schools. When the City Parks Chief heard things were cooking on the "high burner" at the Nature Center, he came out bringing his entire office staff. He told us we were doing a tremendous job. The children were well disciplined and all eyes and ears. A group of retarded children did everything but get in our pockets to get closer to see. When we had a bird with a brood spot we'd let them put a finger on the birds's belly to feel the body heat. Occasionally I'd let some of them release a bird. When I released them I would let them go over my left shoulder so they wouldn't fly into some child's face or hair or maybe leave their calling card on a nose. I noticed one little girl look at the bird I had handed her and told her how to hold it, then put it on her left shoulder to let it get airborne. She didn't know why, but she noted I did it that way. Thanks to Dr. Bennett and her two assistant naturalists and the Thomases and Otts, who are excellent help in the field, we truly had a rewarding day.

Fontenelle Forest at Bellevue produced a Red-tailed Hawk, 7 Kestrel, 1 Long-eared Owl, 2 Great Horned Owl, 6 Screech Owl and a Common Nighthawk for us besides the other nesting birds such as warblers. However, the climax of our bird banding in Nebraska came December 17 in Omaha.

December 4 at about 4:30 p.m. a **Black-throated Sparrow** arrived at the Bruce and Marian Meier's patio and has had bird watchers and banders alike, in a "twitter" since. The Meiers live at 10901 Walling Circle in west Omaha. Their house is up on a high hill, the first one inside the cul-de-sac. The hill is a breezy place with few trees and shrubs so very few birds frequent the area, consequently the "little feller" as he has come to be called, was quite conspicuous. A rare bird alert was sent out and the 'birders' came flocking. After two previous attempts, which didn't materialize because of the weather, Fitzhugh and I were up there by 11 a.m. December 17th going through the house to where we could see him. There he was, feeding on the ground very close to the windows. Never have they seen him fly up to the feeder above. They also had a basin of heated water on the ground. He seems to be a 'loner' and we saw only one Dary-eyed Junco and a Tree Sparrow all the time we were there. After watching and studying him for some time and of course taking many pictures we decided to eat lunch and then hurried out to put up some nets. One low and one high in case the wind blew too strongly. Farther out near some shrubs that we had seen him fly to, we stretched another. In the house we seated ourselves at angles so we could see all nets, full length. In ten minutes I saw him hit mid-way of the net near the shrubs. Fitzhugh was the logical one to run as he had on boots and could wade the deep snow. So, away he went back through the house, around the garage, through the gate and deep snow as only an athlete could. Not until he had removed him and turned toward the house did we see his big smile and head nodding, to tell us it was he. What went on in that foyer the next few minutes, only the four walls could tell and only banders would understand. After more pictures we released him wearing band number 1320-57162.

Besides providing "golden moments" for Marian - as she calls them - for she'd never seen a bird netted, removed and banded and to have her little guest to be the first was such a thrill to her; we were elated to get to band the little visitor who had come from the arid southwest to a cold, windy hill in the big city in eastern Nebraska to winter. A note from Marian told us today he was still there -- 2 months. Ah! yes, a fitting and thrilling climax to our Nebraska banding, wouldn't you agree? -- HAZEL DIGGS, Diggs' Domain, Hamburg.

**A Wintering Bewick's Wren in Cedar Falls** -- One often hears of songbirds which have never been known to winter in Iowa and suddenly decide to do so, whatever the reason. But these are for the most part common birds. The Bewick's Wren is not extremely uncommon in the state, but in Black Hawk County a sighting at any time of the year is unusual. Also, this far north seems to be an unlikely place for the bird to winter; a more likely spot would be in the southeast, where it is most common.

The Bewick's Wren in mention started coming to a feeder at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knoll in Cedar Falls in November. It was identified positively at close range as it fed on suet for several minutes. The bird did not come to the feeder regularly, in fact, on the average was seen only about twice a week. Of course it may have come more often without being noted as it never stayed for very long. The wren continued to come regularly in December as well and on the evening before our Christmas Count, I called the Knolls and asked that they watch for it so we could count it. I went on the count but had only limited success. I was accompanied by two friends on this cold day with a heavy snowfall. The road was snow-and-ice-covered and in one place an icy curve nearly dumped us in the ditch. The only highlight was the sighting of lone Evening Grosbeak. After the count, I called the Knolls to find that they had indeed seen the Bewick's Wren that day. We were jubilant to have a new bird for the Cedar Falls Christmas Count, the Iowa Christmas Census, indeed for the Iowa winter bird list during the time of modern ornithology.

The bird has been seen by several members of the Cedar Falls Audubon Society and will no doubt live to see another spring. It could possible not have accomplished this feat without the Knolls' dependable suet feeding.

Among its relatives which have braved Iowa winters are Carolina Wrens, which were wiped out in Iowa in the winter of 1961-62, none appearing for several years afterwards; the Long-billed Marsh Wren, with one record from Des Moines; and the Winter Wren, which is found here during many a winter. -- MORTEN E. KONIG, 1125 W. 12th St., Cedar Falls.

**Shorebirds at Red Rock Reservoir - 1973** -- This chart gives a record of the shorebird migration at Red Rock Reservoir for 1973. The dates are the final dates of the respective weeks. The number represents the maximum number seen during that week. An X indicates species present but no count available. -- GLADYS BLACK, Pleasantville.

## Shorebirds At Red Rock Reservoir - 1973

	April			May			June			July			August			September			October			Nov.									
	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	3	10	
Shore birds																															
Semipalmated Plover							x	20									35	x	x		6	4		1		3	1				
Piping Plover							1														1										
Killdeer							x	x			x	x																			
American Golden Plover				1			20	x				2					9	3	1	2	17	17	139	75	50	91	5				1
Black-bellied Plover							3	44				3																			
Ruddy Turnstone							4	10													4	5	2	1	1						
American Woodcock							1																							1	
Common Snipe												1					4	1	2	7	1	2	5	1	1	1				1	
Whimbrel							12																								
Upland Sandpiper							1																								
Spotted Sandpiper				2		x		2			x	x	6				1	x			5	3	1	1	1	1	1				
Solitary Sandpiper											2	2	1				6				1	1	2	1							
Willet				1			3	1					4																		
Greater Yellowlegs								x									2	x	1		5	3	x	1		3	2	1			
Lesser Yellowlegs				x			x	x			50	40	2				x	x	x		x	12	x	34	14	10	15				
Pectoral Sandpiper				x			x	x				4					x	x	x		x	18	x	53	9	30	15	10			
White-rumped Sandpiper							1	1																							
Baird's Sandpiper														3						17	26	4	7	3		1	1				
Least Sandpiper							x	x					1	12			x	x	x		6	13	x	12	150	50	19	2			
Dunlin							3	30																		24	16	53	3		
Dowitcher (sp.)							1	1									3	2	6	4	8	2	15	8		23	8				
Suit Sandpiper							6	7									28	39	10	x	150	85	17	30		12	3				
Semipalmated Sandpiper															3		1	x	x		6	12	3			2	1				
Western Sandpiper							x	x													5	1	1	1		1					
Buff-breasted Sandpiper							2										7	52	35	23	31	17	21	5		1					
Marbled Godwit																							1	1							
Hudsonian Godwit							25	1	2																						
Sanderling							8										1	1		2	1	1	1	23	2	6					
American Avocet													1															13			
Wilson's Phalarope								1									13	15	7		11										
Northern Phalarope								3													1	1									



## BOOK REVIEWS



**A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago** -- Richard ffrench -- Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood, Pa., -- 512 p., 36 color plates, 25 line drawings -- 1973 -- \$12.50.

This guide can easily be called the first top quality field guide for a South American area. The color plates for identification, painted by John P. O'Neill, are very well done and well reproduced. Eight to twelve birds appear on each plate but considerable space is included around each bird. Eight portraits by Don Eckelberry are interspersed through the text. The text itself is excellent. It goes beyond the brief text of most field guides. For each of over 400 species the author describes the habitat and status, range and subspecies, description, measurements, voice, food and behaviour. Banding data is included when available. The end covers contain maps of both islands and indicate the location of areas mentioned in the text. The introduction includes a brief history of ornithology on the islands; a description of the environment with many photographs; and remarks on ecology, distribution of species, breeding, migration and conservation. The layout and binding are of fine quality.

Having birded on Trinidad with the author, this reviewer can attest to his knowledge of the avifauna from first hand experience. A teacher of classical languages by profession, Richard ffrench is a very dedicated amateur birder. This book shows again that professionals are not the only ones capable of writing a truly fine book. It is an absolute must for anyone planning to visit Trinidad and Tobago for bird watching and would help for nearby areas of South America. Livingston is again to be congratulated for producing a fine book for the field students of birds. ed.

**Polk County Check-list** -- compiled by Woodward H. Brown -- Des Moines Audubon Society, Des Moines -- 38 p., plus separate map and birding locality insert -- 1973 -- \$.75 -- contact Dick Mooney, 3814 Carpenter, Des Moines 50311.

Now available is the third edition of the **Polk County Check-list**, a weekly record of observation in the county during the last fifteen years. The species name changes of April, 1973, have been incorporated but old names and races are also included. The status and relative abundance of all species is indicated by a simple classification through symbols. Space is left at the back for one to record observations from eight trips or periods of time. A map of the chief birding areas is included and a separate insert reprints that map plus a larger one and a listing of the birding areas.

This type of publication conveys a large quantity of information in a readily usable form. It makes a good local supplement to a field guide, valuable to novice and expert alike. The Tri-City publication of a similar nature is to be reprinted when sufficient funds are accumulated and recent observations are needed. It would be a good project for other Iowa local clubs to consider for their areas. ed.

**Birds -- Examining Your Environment** -- J. C. Mac Bean, A. Stecher, D. F. Wentworth and J. K. Couchman -- Mine Publications, Inc., Minneapolis -- 76 p., many color and black-and-white illustrations -- 1971 -- \$2.94, paperbound.

This is a book for young people aimed at the junior high level. It features many simple activities students can engage in to help them learn about birds. All activities are illustrated very well and additionally, more complex activities are detailed. While the book is intended for young people it can serve as a good base for beginning bird students of any age. Most of the activities need no elaborate equipment and could be completed by scout groups or one's children in the home. Any teacher looking for bird related activities should examine the book for some good ideas. ed.

**The Rand McNally Atlas of World Wildlife**, edited by Victor Stevenson, consultant editor Julian Huxley -- Rand McNally, Chicago -- 208 p., hundred of color illustrations, maps and charts -- 1973 -- \$25.00.

A beautifully produced, large format treatment of wildlife created in consultation with the Zoological Society of London. The book begins with a general introduction covering paleontology, evolution, zoogeography and ecology each capsulized on a double page spread featuring excellent illustration. Then the various great zoological realms are covered, each beginning with a painting showing a typical community. A relief map, major communities and their populations of characteristic animals are the vehicles used to convey an acquaintanceship with the realm. The oceans and their islands are also treated in a similar manner. The final sections cover man and his influences on nature, endangered species, and national parks and reserves. The book is completely indexed. Several minor errors were noted; the reversal of the key drawing on p. 40 indexing the plate on p. 38-39 with the numbers being located correctly; labels on the pine cones on p. 23 are out of place; and many New Zealand cities in the map on p. 135 are located at sea.

To get a good overall picture of wildlife on this planet this book is very highly recommended. One cannot expect to use it as a reference to identify particular species for any given community as that type of detail is beyond any single volume and some errors were not eliminated. It is a good source of general background on an area, perhaps to be used as part of pre-travel study. Hopefully a revision can correct the minor errors noted and any other not mentioned. Public libraries would do well to have at least one copy available. Junior high and high school libraries should also have it, and anyone building a general nature library should also consider it very seriously. ed.

**Grazimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia**, Volume 9, Birds III -- h. e. Bernhard Grzimek, Editor-in-chief -- Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York -- 648 p., many color plates and range maps - 1973 -- \$29.95.

This is the final volume of the portion of this epic series dealing with birds. We covered the basic pattern of treatment in the review of the first two volumes on birds (I. B. L. Vol. 43 p. 78-79). The authors and editors have done an excellent job of providing a large amount of information about a vast number of species. The only errors noted was a caption reversal between Purple and Red-legged Honeycreepers. Another very slight criticism is that the style of the many artists contributing the plates varies considerably and several species, especially the New World warblers and blackbirds, were obviously not painted by artists familiar with the birds in life. These comments are certainly minor and the three volumes are excellent reference books.



Judging the series by the volumes on birds it is to be highly recommended. This reviewer again strongly advises public libraries to give serious consideration to purchase of the entire set. Any serious birder could do far worse than investing in the three bird volumes. ed.

**The Sea Has Wings** -- Franklin Russell -- E. P. Dutton and Co., New York -- 190 p., 105 black and white photographs -- 1973 -- \$10.00.

A combination of Russell's fine prose and Les Lines excellent photographs which combine to tell of the sea birds of the northeast coast of North America. Russell tells of the seasons, habits and territories in an area where millions of sea birds breed. He also describes the activities of one Napolion Comeau, a commercial "hunter" (murderer would be a better term) who slaughtered countless birds and should go down in the history of infamy with the like of William Cody. Lines photographs are divided into four sections, the Gannetry, the Gullery, the Puffinry and the Ternery. In addition to the fine quality of the photographs, the layout is also top flight. Anyone interested in sea birds or our northeast coast will enjoy this book immensely. ed.

**Population Ecology of Migratory Birds** -- A Symposium -- Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D. C. -- 278 p. -- 1973 -- paperbound -- Not for sale - Contact Iowa State University Library.

The symposium was held at the Migratory Bird Population Station, Laurel, Maryland, on Oct. 9 and 10, 1969. Papers with geographic impact for Iowa include "Mallard Migration Corridors as Revealed by Population Distribution, Banding and Radar" by Frank Bellrose and "Population Ecology and Environmental Pollution; Red-tailed and Coopers Hawks" by Charles Henny and Howard Wight. Banders with an interest in migration will find this a valuable publication with some thought provoking reading. ed.

**Owls of the World. Their Evolution, Structure and Ecology** -- John A. Burton, ed. -- E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., New York -- 216 p. over 100 color photographs, 114 maps, 6 diagrams and 80 color paintings -- 1973 -- \$17.95.

This book is very well written, illustrated and produced. It deals with every species of owl including one represented by only one specimen. All are illustrated by good quality, well reproduced color photographs or color paintings executed by John Rignall. The majority of the fourteen authors are British and the book was printed in Holland. The layout is good and the size does not prevent storing the book in most bookcases. The text is much less technical than that of Amadon and Brown's hawk volumes. It discusses habitat, habits, food, movement and breeding. Vocalization is treated in a separate section. A chart shows the calls (some species calls have not been described) using a verbalization of the sounds and indicating the timing pattern. Perhaps some day a record or tape of the worlds' owls will be produced, giving travelers a chance to call them up during brief visits in foreign areas. Pellets are shown in a fine series of photographs and their value is fully discussed in the text. Other chapters deal with conservation, owls and men, the origins of owls and what makes an owl, and a complete species list with both common and scientific names is included.



This book can be recommended to anyone interested in owls. While certainly not a field guide it would still help one learn species identification. Public libraries should give it serious consideration along with all avid birders. ed.

**The Dictionary of American Bird Names** -- Ernest A. Choate -- Gambit, Inc.; Boston -- 262 p., many woodcuts -- 1973 -- \$6.95.

A volume somewhat similar to **Words for Birds** By Gruson (I. B. L. Vol. 42 p. 101-102). Choate divides the book into sections on common names, scientific names, a biographical appendix and an English - Latin glossary. He explains the technical aspects of scientific names in a clear manner. The Bewick woodcuts enhance the book nicely. The common name derivations indicate a greater familiarity with birds on the part of the author when compared to Gruson. Everything considered it would seem to be a better book than Gruson's and has the advantage of incorporating the April, 1973 name changes. ed.

**Birds of the Tropics** -- John A. Burton -- Crown Publishers, Inc., New York -- 128 p., 120 color photographs -- one map -- 1973 -- \$4.95.

A lavish book which provides a good introduction and enticement to tropical birding. The book is divided into five sections covering the major tropical regions, Australian, Oriental, Ethiopian, Neotropical and Oceans and islands. Being familiar with only the Neotropical region my remarks will be confined to it, but the other regions are treated in a similar manner. The author develops the geographical background of the area and the characteristic families. The text is not technical and is very readable. The photographs are very good for the most part and are well reproduced. The Brazilian Tanager is a different species from the Scarlet Tanager and is confined to South America, contrary to a caption. Everything considered, it is a good book to introduce one to tropical birds and certainly reasonably priced. ed.

**The Life of the Hummingbird** -- Alexander F. Skutch -- Crown Publishers, Inc., New York -- 96 p. over 80 species painted in color by Arthur Singer -- 1973 -- \$9.95.

The well known life history chronicler, Alexander Skutch has produced his second book for the non-technical natural history reader. Combining talents with Skutch is Arthur Singer, one of our foremost bird artists. The author describes the birds' colors, adornments, flight, food metabolism, longevity, bills, tongues, food, daily activities, temperament, courtship, voice, other sounds, nesting, enemies, friends, past and future. The book is not long, the print is large and the paper is of very heavy stock. It is non-technical and smooth flowing prose. This is a good introduction to this fascinating order of birds and a well produced book. ed.

**Care of the Wild Feathered and Furred: A Guide to Wildlife Handling and Care** -- Mae Hickman and Maxine Guy -- Unity Press, Santa Cruz, California -- 144 p., many line drawings -- 1973 -- \$3.95.

Finally we have a good reference for people who must care for injured animals. As a museum curator this reviewer is often contacted concerning what to do to care for some injured animal which someone's conscience will not let them leave to die. While it is not stressed, this book points out the fact that it is illegal in many states (including Iowa) to keep any protected species for any reason. Before attempting to care for any wild animal one should contact their local conservation officer and learn the legal steps necessary for this to be done. The book deals with birds in some detail, especially fledglings. A food chart is also included. One

section deals with care while another covers treatment of injuries, poisoning, shock, disease, oil and tar damage and miscellaneous problems. The release of birds after treatment is stressed and banding prior to release is suggested. This book answers many questions on caring for wild animals and provided it does not encourage illegally possessing them will accomplish considerable. ed.

**Finches** -- Ian Newton -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 288 p., 4 color plates, 24 black and white plates, 64 line drawings and 18 tables -- 1973 -- \$12.50.

Upon reading the title of this book most Americans would expect it to cover all members of the family Fringillidae. However the author deals only with the eighteen European species. The book provides considerable life history information for these species which include some very common European birds. Color plates, range maps, breeding ecology and behavior, moults, migration, irruptions, feeding ecology, flocking and roosting are among the many life history facets covered. A series of appendices and a very complete bibliography round out a well written volume. ed.

**Nightwatchmen of Bush and Plain** -- David Fleay -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 163 p., 16 color photographs, many black and white photographs -- \$8.50. 1972-

Another book almost entirely about owls, the owls of Australia in this case. The author also gives some information concerning the nightjars, goatsuckers to us. The text is very readable as anyone who has read any of Fleay's other books dealing with the natural history of Australia can attest. The owl dealt with in the greatest detail is the Powerful Owl, several of which the author has breed in captivity. The variety of owls in Australia points up the general similarity between that country and the United States in natural history. The book provides insights into Australia in areas of wider scope than that of its nocturnal avian population. ed.

**Master Builders of the Animal World** -- David Hancocks -- Harper and Row, Publishers, New York -- 144 p. 8 color plates, many black and white plates -- 1973 -- \$8.95.

This is a rather different approach for a natural history book, the author is an architect who specializes in zoo housings. The author deals with birds to a great extent since they are probably the most skillful animal architects. He begins by considering the environment and shelter factors the animals are faced with. He then covers mobile architecture; building by subtaction (excavating), addition, and underwater; cooperative builders; colonials; parasites; partnerships; snare builders and concludes with considerations of design and decoration. Well illustrated, this book serves as a good introduction to the many facets of building in the world of natural history. ed.

**Audubon in Florida** -- Kathryn Hall Croby -- University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida -- 384 p., 78 black and white photographs -- 1974 -- \$12.50.

This book is a combination of biography, travel and ornithological writing. The author begins with a brief biography of Audubon stressing his Florida travels. She then follows these Florida travels giving us an idea of how they have changed since Audubon's day. This section contains many photographs, including one of Spring



Garden by Fred Kent of Iowa City. The bulk of the text is devoted to reprinting 52 "life histories" from Audubon's own writing. Most of this comes from his *Ornithological Biography*, recently reprinted as *The Birds of America* in seven volumes by Dover (I. B. L. -- Vol. 38 p. 22). They are illustrated by photographs of Audubon's paintings. Seven "Episodes", narrative accounts describing the area and wildlife generally, are also included. The final section contains excerpts from the log book of the ship Marion on which Audubon traveled for part of his Florida journey. Although much of the text can be found elsewhere this book is still valuable in its drawing together of Audubon's Florida material. ed.

**Birds of Prey of Wisconsin** -- Frances Hamerstrom -- Dept. of Natural Resources, Madison, Wis., -- 64 p., many line drawings -- 1972 -- paperbound -- single copies available free.

A well written booklet intended primarily for the general public and seeking to introduce the birds of prey to them. The author begins by discussing migration, how to read signs, silhouettes, and providing a field key. The next section illustrates the hawks with fairly well executed line drawings. The hawks are then covered species by species in a general manner. Owls are treated in much the same manner. This booklet, which has considerable application for Iowa, is certainly worth writing for. ed.

**Endangered Animals in Wisconsin** -- Compiled by Department of Natural Resources Endangered Species Committee, Madison, Wis. -- 28 p., many photographs -- 1973 -- paperbound -- single copies available free.

A booklet capsulizing not only endangered species but animals with changing status, extirpated animals, uncommon plants and plant communities. This type of publication is a good way to help these species by making the public aware of them and their plight. Perhaps in time this idea will come to Iowa. ed.

**Color-marked Cowbirds** -- Over 2800 Cowbirds were banded and color-marked in west-central Kansas during 1973 as an aid in studying their movements and hopefully to determine their place of origin. Birds were marked with dark blue or yellow plastic leg streamers. Banding and color-marking will be continued in 1974 with red, yellow and dark green leg streamers. Observers should report location and date of sighting, sex of bird and color of leg streamer. Richard A. Hill, Department of Biology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601.

## Cover

Our 1974 cover drawing of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was done by Mary Rose of 10 Roberts Ave., Davenport. The bird was a regular visitor to her feeder this winter. Miss Rose, a native of Davenport, is a graduate of Bennett Junior College, Millbrook, N. Y. with honors in painting and sculpture. She has shown locally since 1945 winning four awards including a purchase prize in 1966 for an oil landscape now in the permanent collection of the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery. Concerned about the shrinking natural habitat and need to preserve Iowa's wildlife she is a member of several conservation groups and the I. O. U. ed.